

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /070 W

----- 116430

P R 190730Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4227

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2862

NOFORN

WARNING NOTICE -- SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND
METHODS INVOLVED -- NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINS MOPS PGOV CH

SUBJECT: NPC STANDING COMMITTEE SECOND SESSION

1. THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S
CONGRESS (NPC), IN ITS SECOND SESSION SINCE FORMATION IN
JANUARY, RUBBER-STAMPED ITS WAY THROUGH A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT
DECISIONS IN TWO AFTERNOONS MARCH 17 AND 18. THE AGENDA
INCLUDED AMNESTY AND RELEASE TO ALL WAR CRIMINALS IN
CUSTODY, TO WHICH NCNA DEVOTED ALL BUT A FEW LINES OF ITS
MARCH 18 REPORT ON THE SESSION (SEPTTEL), AN EXPLANATION
OF THE 1975 NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN BY VICE PREMIER AND
STATE PLANNING CHIEF YU CHU-LI, AND A REPORT ON "PRECAUTIONS
AGAINST EARTHQUAKE AND RELIEF WORK IN THE HAICHENG-YINKOU
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AREA OF LIAONING PROVINCE" BY NPC VICE CHAIRMAN LI SU-WEN

(ACCORDING TO THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS, A MEMBER OF THE COMFORT MISSION TO THE FEBRUARY 4 DISASTER AREA).

2. IN EXPLAINING THE AMNESTY, VICE PREMIER AND PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER HUA KUO-FENG REITERATED THE REGIME'S CURRENT WATCHWORDS, ASSERTING THAT CHINA INTERNALLY ENJOYS "GREATER STABILITY AND UNITY AND THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT IS MORE CONSOLIDATED THAN EVER." SIMILAR VIEWS AND SENTIMENTS WERE UTTERED BY SECONDDERS OF THE PROPOSAL, ONE OF WHOM POINTED UP THE PRESENT CRACKDOWN ON PUBLIC DISCIPLINE BY LABELING THE AMNESTY " OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE FOR ISOLATING THE HANDFUL OF CLASS ENEMIES TO THE MAXIMUM AND ATTACKING THEM AND FOR ENHANCING THE EXCELLENT SITUATION IN REVOLUTION AND PRODUCTION."

3. THE SESSION ALSO APPROVED AN UNSPECIFIED LIST OF AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENTS, PRESUMABLY MOSTLY MADE EARLIER, AND ELCTED FOUR DEPUTIES TO NPC SECRETARY GENERAL CHI PENG-FEI. THE NEW DEPUTIES, LO CHING-CHANG (5012/7230/7022), WU HSIN-YU (2976/2450/1342), LI CHIN-TE (2621/6855/1795), AND SHA CHIEN-LI (3097/0578/6849), ARE VETERAN CADRE WHOSE VARIED BACKGROUNDS AND EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE SUGGEST THEY WILL PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE REGIME THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS (AIRGRAM FOLLOWS).

4. COMMENT: HOWEVER AUTOMATED, A RETURN TO PERIODIC AND PUBLICLY REPORTED NPC STANDING COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS IS SYMBOLIC OF THE REGIME'S TURN BACK TO PRACTICES OF TEN YEARS AGO AND ITS DESIRE FOR STABILITY AND ORDER, AND AS SUCH COULD HAVE A SALUTARY EFFECT IN RAISING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. BEGIN XGDS-2 CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN A RECENT LETTER WRITER, CITING A CLOSE RELATIVE WHO IS AN NPC DELEGATE, HAS SAID THE NPC ITSELF IS EXPECTED TO MEET IN PLENARY SESSION ONCE A YEAR. END XGDS-2.

5. AS POSSIBLE SIDELIGHT ON THE AMNESTY MOVE, THE FIRST SUCH AMNESTY WAS IN DECEMBER 1959, AFTER MAO STEPPED ASIDE IN FAVOR OF LIU SHAO-CHI AND THE LIU-TNEG HSIAO-PING GROUP CAME TO POWER. THERE WERE FOUR SUBSEQUENT AMNESTIES, THE LAST IN DECEMBER 1964, TWO YEARS BEFORE THE

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CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THE FALL OF LIU-TNEG. THERE HAVE BEEN NO AMNESTIES FOR TEN YEARS. IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE TO SPECULATE THAT THE IDEA FOR THIS NEW AMNESTY MOVE, WHILE EXPLICITLY CREDITED TO MAO, MAY HAVE ORIGINATED WITH THE REHABILITATED TENG.

6. THIS MESSAGE IS SENT PRIORITY SO THAT IT MAY BE READ ALONG WITH PEKING'S 486.

CROSS

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